

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 6th June 2012
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall.

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (GVH Rep), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (MVH Rep), Kirsty Shearer, Penny Short (Member), Jimmy Thomson (Vice-chair), David Walls, Julia White (Chair), Philip White (Member).

Cllr Broun Lindsay and Cllr John McMillan.

Apologies

Ian Smith

AGM

JW introduced the AGM and announced that she has sold her house and was considering resigning. However, she said that she had been asked to stay on for the next two meetings until the CC election – this was warmly accepted by all.

The following posts were nominated and elected:

Chair: Julia White
Vice-chair: JT
Treasurer: IM
Secretary: RB

Treasurer's Report

IM gave out profit and loss account for the last financial year. This showed a surplus for the year of £1,371.74. There were no questions.

HC asked whether there was any money available from the Viridor Grant (also whether money was available from the legal fees that had been laid aside for the Woodland project, that had not been needed). JT said that there might be some surplus, but that it would take some thought to work out the amount – JW asked HC and JT to do this and to identify exactly how much there is, so that it can be allocated.

Action: As above

JW asked whether the process of paying the money from the Crystal Rigg grant needs streamlining in any way – eg. checking on VAT and having a common account.

JT raised the issue of the Garvald Playpark and explained that the payment of this had finally been completed, following a number of complications. He explained that there was £952 remaining from this tranche of money and that this was due to the Village Hall fund.

Chairperson's report

JW said that the local community had started to see some benefits from the Windfarm fund, especially for children groups that would not have otherwise been supported. She noted that this still needs work in terms of monitoring etc, but that it had achieved a lot already. She said that she had had anxieties about paper work to begin with, but that it had in fact come good. She gave thanks to everyone for the work they do and noted that 'we get through a load of work at our bi-monthly meetings'. She concluded by asking whether the CC should perhaps meet more often than once a month.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

Issues arising:

Repairs to Morham Bridge and Wall: A more substantial barrier has been erected. Cllr BL confirmed that the repair was the landowner's issue. IM said the owners were in the process of getting quotes for the work and asked whether the Council would provide heavy machinery to help.

Slow down sign – JT said many other CC had got signs, but that none were interested in sharing them with GMCC. He had therefore not taken the issue any further.

2. Grants and Funding

Local Priorities Fund: IM said that he had not received any invoices for the funds allocated under this fund. DM said he would send invoices to the council and notify Ian as to whether all the fund had been used up.

Action: DM as above

Crystal Rigg: The applications that had been received so far were discussed to check that the CC had got all the information needed to consider them properly. The applications were as follows:

- GVH West Door replacement – £2,400. (Rolled over from last year)
- Lothian Broadband – £15,000. (Revised and rolled over from last year)
- Knox youth group – £5,450.
- Oil central heating for MVH – £7,400.

- GVH exterior paint work – £3,500
- Arts and outdoor activities. – £300 approx. (applicant will be asked for more information).

- GVH – solar panels (only an enquiry as to whether it would be looked at favourably) – JW said they were welcome to put an application in.

- Lunchtime theatre at Haddington Town House – which already took place in May. JW suggested that they re-apply for next year.

JW said that the CC should try to fund projects proportionately.

JT asked whether the GVH painting was something that was still to be done – HC said ‘yes it was’ as woodwork had gone rotten.

PW asked about the amount for the solar panels. IM said that the application had asked for a yearly amount. The suggestion was made that the application should be put in (with full information) and discussed next year. It was also suggested that the village hall should think more generally about renewable energy and conservation.

JT put up a comprehensive argument against the solar panels and said that he would inform the Village Hall Committee about the practicalities of the technology.

JW said that, in general, VAT issues needed to be clarified.

A question was asked about how many Garvald and Morham kids are involved in Knox youth group – JW said she would follow up.

Councillors' Report

Cllr BL said that he had nothing to report

Cllr John McMillan gave a reminder about the Roads Helpline as the key way of reporting problems. He also passed on his contact details: 827000 (office); 827005 (PA); jmcmillan@eastlothian.gov.uk

He asked for views on when best to hold his surgeries.

JT raised a complaint about the Council's jet patcher – it only half filled holes and left cars covered in tar. JS also said that the fact that no notification was given was a problem and that the crew were not very helpful when blocking the road. JT added that Road Closed signs were often in inappropriate position – he said there is a need for more supervision.

PW asked about the one-way route in Haddington – Cllr McMillan said that the 'vision' work was ongoing with no conclusion as yet.

Broadband Report

DW reported on progress with the Broadband initiative. He said that the group's grant has been stopped officially as it had exceeded the de minimis award level despite assurances by East Lothian Council. This had happened despite reassurances that the problem would be resolved quickly (in October).

Overall the fault lies with East Lothian Council and the Leader Group which did not apply the right regulations (what should have happened is that the whole project should have been put out to tender).

The Audit Scotland Office has said this cannot be fixed in retrospect – but they are urging the Broadband Group to re-submit for the grant and assistance has been offered.

The Broadband Group is considering the next step and is in the process of looking at options. One option is to resubmit a Leader application. There is money outstanding from the Council who are liable for debts that the Broadband Group has acquired.

DW said that the group has the immediate intention to finish the upgrade to the Village Broadband – this is complete in certain places. Crystal Rigg Fund money will allow this upgrade and enable them to purchase a new server.

DW explained that at the moment everything hinges on the windfarm money, but if refunding goes ahead this won't be so important. JW said that money will not be available until August.

Garvald website

JW said that she had received an e-mail from Barrie Ash and Heidi Ingram asking for clarification about the funding and use of the Garvald website.

DW said that he had attended a meeting to kick off the discussion about the website and that Lothian Broadband had subsequently offered space for a website for the Garvald Village Hall. He said that, as far as Lothian Broadband is concerned, it needs to know who is responsible, what the purpose of the site is and who is running it.

DW also explained that if the site is extended to other users then this involves more expensive webspace and raises security issues.

JT said that if the CC is providing funding then it should incorporate the needs of Morham. He said that he had no problem with funding being given.

JW said she felt it wasn't a CC issue and that it needs to be discussed by the people running it.

JW asked if anyone would act to give CC input into the web management team. PW said that he would be happy to do it. David said he would represent Morham. HC said she would set up the meeting.

Action: JW to forward e-mail and RB to circulate.

3. Woodland Report

JT reported that the monks had signed the contract and agreement, and that they would be giving instructions to Scottish Woodlands to bring the trees down. The aim is to get the work done by the end of the year.

He explained that the CC's commitment is to give them the £17,000 – beyond that there are no other commitments. All insurance, maintenance (over 8 years) and other issues are the Monks' responsibilities. Also any expenses that go over £17,000 are the Monk's responsibility.

Action: JT will ask for an invoice from Scottish Woodlands for the money owed. Copy of all paper work will be given to IM.

Local Planning Applications

Nothing contentious.

Garvald Update

HC passed on thanks for the CC's contribution to the Jubilee party, which had gone well.

She reported that the next venture is the jumble sale, which is scheduled for the last Sunday in June.

Flower show is on Saturday 25th/26th.

9. Morham Update

DM reported that the Jubilee Patio is complete. The tree will be complemented by an autumn fruits hedge.

Picts playing Saturday 4th August.

10. A.O.C.B.

A letter had been received from the new ELC Chief Executive, Angela Leach. She would like to visit and asked for a list of dates.

Action: JW will reply.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday the 6th August, at Garvald Stables.